

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PN, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PANAMENISTAS ON CARTER VISIT: NOT TO WORRY

REF: PANAMA 93279

SUMMARY: PANAMENISTA PARTY LEADERS HAVE TOLD THE
EMBASSY THE PARTY WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT OR
DEMONSTRATE AGAINST PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT. THEIR
PLANS FOR FORMER PRESIDENT ARNULFO ARIAS' RETURN TO
PANAMA ON JUNE 10 ARE STILL ON. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTRARY TO A FEW RUMORS CURRENTLY IN CIRCULATION IN
PANAMA, THE PANAMENISTA PARTY WILL MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO
DISRUPT OR DEMONSTRATE AGAINST PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT
HERE JUNE 16-17. SO SAY TWO PARTY LEADERS, GUILLERMO
ENDARA AND FELIPE CLEMENT. THEY TOLD EMBOFFS "NOT TO
WORRY ABOUT IT." THE PANAMENISTAS HAVE PUBLICIZED THEIR
OPPOSITION TO THE CARTER VISIT, CLAIMING IT CONSTITUTES
INTERVENTION IN PANAMA'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, BUT THEY
REPORTEDLY PLAN TO CARRY THEIR OPPOSITION NO FURTHER.

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2. THE PANAMENISTAS ARE BUSY WITH A PRESIDENTIAL
RECEIVING CEREMONY OF THEIR OWN -- FOR THE RETURN TO
PANAMA ON JUNE 10 OF FORMER PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT ARNULFO
ARIAS, CURRENTLY IN EXILE IN MIAMI. ENDARA AND CLEMENT
ADMIT ARIAS' RETURN WAS PLANNED TO PRECEDE CARTER'S VISIT,
IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GOP'S GOODWILL AT THIS
TIME. SO FAR, THE GOP HAS PUT NO OBSTACLES IN THEIR PATH,

ASIDE FROM STARTING RUMORS THAT ARIAS' RETURN WAS DELAYED
OR CANCELED ALTOGETHER. THE BIG DAY IS STILL SET FOR
JUNE 10, WITH ARIAS' ARRIVAL BY CHARTERED PLANE AT PAITILLA
AIRPORT IN PANAMA CITY, FOLLOWED BY A RALLY AT SANTA ANA
PLAZA DOWNTOWN. A WELCOMING CROWD OF SOME 50,000 IS HOPED
FOR, TO INCLUDE MANY ARIAS SUPPORTERS WHO WILL COME IN
FROM THE INTERIOR. JORDEN

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